Isabel Shipley Cunningham Papers
MS22

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections
October, 2006
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Summary Information

Repository	Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections
Title	Isabel Shipley Cunningham Papers
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1925-1947
Date [inclusive]	1884 – 1950
Extent	0.5 Linear feet 1 box
Language	English
Abstract	The Isabel Shipley Cunningham Papers document her life as an accomplished writer on a variety of subjects, including horitculture, oriental art, and Maryland history. The latter played an important role in her geneology of the prominent Shipleys, who settled Howard and Anne Arundel counties. The collection consists of composition books, report cards, certificates, account books and several large scrapbooks, which include certificates, photographs, correspondence, and ephemera. This collection details Cunningham’s life through her childhood, education, and time spent as a high school teacher.

Biographical/Historical note

Isabel Shipley Cunningham was born Isabel Wesley Shipley in 1919. Her father, Marvin Rodolphus Shipley (1885-1965), was an amateur baseball player, an active Mason and Shriner and served as the secretary of the Board of Stewards of Ridge Church for many years. Her mother, Claudine Welsh Shipley (1895-1988), was a homemaker who devoted her time to gardening and genealogy. Isabel's only sister, Virginia Welsh Shipley (1923-1989) worked for over 40 years for the Girl Scouts of America, and was the director of the American Girl Scout Program in Japan from 1955-57.

After her graduation from Glen Burnie High School in 1935, Isabel studied English and Social Studies at Goucher College, where she was an active member of the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority. She earned her bachelor's degree in 1939 and went on to teach at Southern High School in Anne Arundel County and Catonsville High School in Baltimore County.

Isabel married Chipman Woodward Cunningham (1919-1981) in June of 1943. Chipman served in World War II as a first lieutenant in the European Theater operation. He was part of the 30th Infantry Division, which was known as the "Old Hickory" Division, and was called to war after only three months of training. The couple saw each other only about eight times the year before their wedding. They corresponded regularly while Chipman away; he wrote twice a week on average, mostly love letters and romantic cards, many of which Isabel saved in scrapbooks. During this time, Isabel attended graduate school at Smith College in Massachusetts, and earned a Master of Arts degree in English in 1945.

An accomplished writer, Isabel Cunningham has written over 40 articles and published books on a variety of subjects, including horticulture and plant resources, oriental art, and Maryland history. Isabel played a major role in recording the genealogy and history of the Shipleys, a significant Maryland family descended from Adam Shipley, who settled much of what are now Howard and Anne Arundel counties in the 17th century. Isabel's writing also focuses on local and state history and in 2002, she was presented with a Heritage Award from the Maryland Historical Trust for The Pasadena Peninsula (2002), one of her two books on the history of Pasadena, Maryland. She has two children, Deborah Chipman and David Woodward Cunningham.

Scope and Content note

The Isabel Shipley Cunningham Papers consist of composition books, report cards, certificates, account books and several large scrapbooks, which include certificates, photographs, correspondence, and ephemera, this collection offers detail of Cunningham's life through her childhood, education, and time spent as a high school teacher. Also included in the collection is as an autograph book that belonged to

Eva C. Shipley, Cunningham’s aunt, a compact disc of digital images of the Shipley family, and labels from a display of Cunningham’s papers at the Enoch Pratt Free Library.

Arrangement note

The collection is organized in chronological order as prescribed by Isabel Shipley Cunningham when the gift was donated to the Enoch Pratt Free Library. The collection consists of 4 boxes.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections October, 2006

Revision Description

Entered into Archivist's Toolkit by Joan M. Wolk, January, 2015. January, 2015

Conditions Governing Access

Unrestricted, open by appointment.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Unknown.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Goucher College.

- Smith College.

Genre(s)

- Books
- Correspondence
- Genealogy & local history
- photographs
- scrapbooks

Occupation(s)

- Women teachers
- Women writers

Personal Name(s)

- Cunningham, Isabel Shipley , 1919-
- Shipley, Adam, approximately 1768

Subject(s)

- Art, Asian
- Horticulture
- Maryland History
- Report cards

Collection Inventory

Chronological Inventory	Box 1-4
	Box
Autograph book of Eva C. Shipley, original form, 1884-1885	1
Composition book, original form, 1925	1
Scrapbook, original form, 1926 or 1927	1
Biographical material covering the years 1923-1935, including a photograph portrait, certificates, report cards, event programs, and greeting cards. The bulk of the material is made up of loose scrapbook pages, each in an individual sleeve.	1
Brief outline of the collection written by Isabel Shipley Cunningham	1
Letter from the Enoch Pratt Free Library to Cunningham thanking her for her donation, 2006	1
Scrapbook, original form, 1935-39	2
Bachelor of Arts Degree, Goucher College, 1939	2
High School Teacher’s Certificate, State of Maryland Department of Education, 1939	2
Scrapbook, original form, 1935-39	3

Chronological Inventory

Photograph portrait, 1940	3
Scrapbook, original form, 1941-1942	3
Photograph portrait, 1943	4
Scrapbook, loose, each page in individual sleeve, 1943-1950	4
Four Account Books, original form, 1941-1942	4
Photograph portrait, 1983	4
Compact disc with images of the Shipley family, created 2004	
	Box
Labels from an exhibit of Cunningham’s papers at the Enoch Pratt Free Library	4